

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8687

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 4)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,KS,KN,BM, UNGA

SUBJ: VISIT OF BURMESE FORNMIN U HLA PHONE TO ROK

SUMMARY. ROKG PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF FOUR DAY VISIT OF
BURMESE FORNMIN U HLA PHONE TO ROK, EXPECT SEE BURMESE RETURN
TO PRE-1975 POSITION OF STRICT NEUTRALITY OF KOREAN QUESTION
AT UNGA. END SUMMARY.

1. ROKG HOSTED LONG-DELAYED VISIT BURMESE FORNMIN U HLA
PHONE FOR FOUR DAYS OCTOBER 24-28 ON PHONE'S RETURN TRIP TO
BURMA FROM UNGA.

2. MAJOR IMPORT OF TALKS FROM ROK POINT OF VIEW WAS FURTHER
DEVELOPMENT BURMESE ATTITUDE ON KOREAN QUESTION. CONTRARY TO
ROK PRESS REPORT ON VISIT THAT "BURMA BACKS ROK CALL FOR
SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE," MOFA CHIEF OF SOUTH ASIA & OCEANIA
DIVISION CHO DONG JIN TOLD EMBOFF THAT PHONE CONFINED
SELF TO STATEMENT THAT THE "SPIRIT AND SENTIMENT OF
(ROK-DPRK) JULY 4TH (1972) STATEMENT WOULD HELP OVERCOME
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DIFFERENCES AND FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION" TO KOREAN

QUESTION. ALL TALKS WITH PHONE INDICATED TO ROKS THAT RANGOON INTENDS TO RETURN TO STRICT NEUTRALITY ON KOREAN QUESTION; 1975 VOTE FOR DPRK RESOLUTION AND ABSTENTION ON ROK RESOLUTION WOULD STAND AS "SEPARATE INSTANCE;" WITH RANGOON HOPING TO "LET BYGONES BE BYGONES." MOFA OFFICIAL SAID PHONE MADE NO MENTION PRESENCE OF US TROOPS -- WHICH BURMESE HAD CRITICIZED IN 1975 -- THEN ADDED THAT WHEN POINT HAD BEEN RAISED RECENTLY BY ROK EMBASSY IN RANGOON, BURMESE ALSO HAD NO COMMENT. MOFA OFFICIAL HOPEFUL RANGOON WILL EITHER ABSTAIN ON OR BE ABSENT FROM FUTURE VOTES ON KOREAN QUESTION IN UNGA, SHOULD THEY ARISE.

3. MOFA OFFICIAL SAID KOREA HERALD ALSO REPORTED MISLEAD-
INGLY: (1) THAT PHONE "RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO THE REMARKS
OF ROK FORNMIN PARK TONG JIM THAT KOREA HOPES TO PARTICI-
PATE IN CONSTRUCTION WORK IN BURMA"; AND (2) THAT PHONE
WAS QUOTED BY SOURCES AS SAYING THAT BURMA WANTS TO
INTRODUCE HIGH-STANDARD KOREAN TECHNOLOGY. THESE POINTS
HAD BEEN MENTIONED BY THE KOREANS, BUT MOFA OFFICIAL
SAYS PHONE SAID NOTHING. HOWEVER, PAPER CORRECTLY
REPORTED THAT KOREA WILL RECEIVE TEN BURMESE TECHNICAL
TRAINEES. PRIOR TO TRIP, BURMESE ALSO APPARENTLY AGREED TO BUY
FIFTY BARGES AND TRAWLERS FROM TAEDONG CORPORATION.

4. APART FROM CONVERSATIONS PHONE CONFINED ACTIVITIES TO
INDUSTRIAL VISITS (ULSAN OIL REFINERIES AND SHIPYARDS),
DINNERS, AND GOLF. HE DECLINED OFFER TO SEE DMZ FRONT-
LINES, DPRK TUNNELS, DUE TO CAUTION OVER KOREAN QUESTION.

5. ROKG PLEASED TO GIVE PHONE, WHO VISITED PYONGYANG LAST
YEAR, OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THIS HALF OF PENINSULA, AND WAS
ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT PHONE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY
BURMESE MOFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR UN AFFAIRS, SLATED ACCORDING ROKS
TO BE NEXT UN AMBASSADOR, PLEASURE ENHANCED BY FACT DIRECTOR
GENERAL NEVER VISITED P'YONGYANG. PHONE ALSO ACCOMPANIED BY
AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN AND MOFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AMERICAS.
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